

**1-800-222-1222**

## First Aid for Poisoning

### Swallowed Poison:

- Gently wipe out mouth and give a small amount of water.
- Do not make the person vomit.
- Call the poison center.

### Poison on the Skin:

- Remove contaminated clothing and jewelry.
- Rinse skin with lukewarm water for 10 minutes.
- Call the poison center.

### Poison in the Eye:

- Flush the eye with lukewarm water from cup, faucet, or shower for 15 minutes.
- Do not force the eyelid open.
- Call the poison center.

### Inhaled Poison:

- Get the person to fresh air.
- Open doors and windows.
- Call the poison center.

## Stay Connected

[www.mdpoison.com](http://www.mdpoison.com)



# What you need to know about The Maryland Poison Center

## Here are some facts that may surprise you:

- Each year, approximately 900,000 suspected poisoning exposures in children younger than six years old are reported to poison centers across the country.
- More than 30,000 poisonings and overdoses are reported to the Maryland Poison Center every year.

The Maryland Poison Center (MPC) provides emergency assessment of poison exposures, treatment recommendations, education, and prevention information. Our service area covers the state of Maryland and Washington DC. Established as a service of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in 1972, we are a regional poison center certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC).

## The first call you should make.

The MPC is the first place to call in the event of a suspected poisoning. Each year, our poison specialists manage more than 38,000 cases of human exposures, animal exposures, and information requests. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide you with safe, effective emergency treatment advice and we are also here to answer any non-urgent questions you might have about poisons.

## A team of experts ready to help you.

When you call us, you can be assured that your situation is in the hands of the most qualified, highly trained health care professionals. The MPC is staffed at all times by licensed pharmacists and nurses—all with additional training in clinical toxicology (the study of poisons). Each specialist is certified by the AAPCC as a certified specialist in poison information. In addition, board certified clinical and medical toxicologists are available for consultation 24 hours a day.

## **Educational resources for everyone.**

Our services stretch beyond emergency treatment advice. We are committed to providing the latest poison prevention and treatment information to both the public and health care professionals. The MPC provides free information sheets, newsletters, and blogs on poison prevention and awareness.

### **For the public:**

Our educational resources are designed to help increase the awareness of potential poisons and what to do if a poisoning occurs. To reinforce this message, our health educators offer poison prevention training courses to health care students, community organizations, and local health coalitions. Materials such as stickers and magnets displaying the nationwide poison help line are available. Everyone is encouraged to program 1-800-222-1222 into their mobile phones. This number will connect you to a regional poison center anywhere in the United States.

### **For health care professionals:**

Our specialists continuously provide training on overdoses, poisonings, and a variety of other topics to pharmacists, physicians, nurses, and paramedics. Programs are offered as in-services, grand rounds, and other presentations. Health care professionals visit our facility for onsite training to see firsthand how a poison center operates and for in depth training on various toxicology topics.

In addition, we have a two-year fellowship in clinical toxicology for pharmacists that provides them with the experience and education needed for career opportunities in poison centers and emergency medicine.

The health care professionals in health care facilities who treat poisonings and overdoses often call us for up-to-date treatment information. We maintain extensive resources on poisonings, including computer databases and toxicology books.

## **Saving dollars while saving lives.**

While saving a life is absolutely priceless, the MPC saves money by managing approximately 65% of all cases safely and inexpensively at home. We prevent an estimated 15 to 30 million dollars in unnecessary emergency department costs each year. And for every dollar spent on poison center services, at least \$13.69 is saved in overall health care costs.

## **A number to remember.**

# **1-800-222-1222**

For non-English-speaking callers we use an interpreting service to translate information and instructions over the phone in 240 languages.

We have the ability to handle calls from deaf and hard of hearing callers with Maryland Relay (711).

For administrative issues, such as information about our educational programs, please call 410-706-7604 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. To order educational materials, please go to our website: [www.mdpoison.com](http://www.mdpoison.com).

